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FM AMEMBASSY TBILISI

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1634

INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0230

RUEKJCS/OSD WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 4848

RUEHUNV/UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY

RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 4037

C O N F I D E N T I A L TBILISI 000984

NOFORN

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/29/2019

TAGS: PREL UNSC UNOMIG RS GG

SUBJECT: GEORGIA: FM VASHADZE UNDERLINES REDLINES ON UN
MANDATE

REF: A. GEHRENBECK-EUR/CARC/DL 5-26-09 EMAIL

1B. TBILISI 942

Classified By: Ambassador John F. Tefft for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C/NF) On May 29, Georgian Foreign Minister Vashadze called in the Ambassador to ensure the United States understood Georgia's redlines regarding a new UN mandate. Referring to his May 22 letter to the Secretary, Vashadze emphasized Georgia's absolute commitment to the following minimum requirements: 1) the August 12, 2008 ceasefire agreement must be the basis for a new mandate; 2) the mandate must include an international police component; and 3) the mandate must provide for fully demilitarized zones in Gali, Ochamchire, and the Kodori Valley. Vashadze also insisted the name of the mission must contain a reference to Georgia. A mandate that did not meet these conditions -- especially a basis in the ceasefire agreement and a continued reference to Georgia in the name -- would be "absolutely unacceptable." Explaining that Georgia must have security, but must also avoid any step by the international community away from its territorial integrity, Vashadze said that Georgia is ready to refuse home country consent if the mandate does not include these key elements.

12. (C/NF) Vashadze noted that a mandate without these elements would present enormous problems for Georgia, both internally and externally. In addition to the aftermath of war, an economic crisis, massive unemployment, and a huge loss of trade, Georgia would have moved that much farther away from the international community's recognition of and support for its territorial integrity. Explaining that Georgia looks to the United States as the cornerstone of its international support, Vashadze said that Georgia is not willing to give Russia the slightest hint that it is willing to compromise on these fundamental points.

13. (C/NF) In the case of the OSCE, Vashadze explained that Georgia, as a full-fledged member with equal status as all other members, was more able to be flexible and take positions that avoided any blame for the defeat of the mission. In New York, however, Georgia does not have a seat at the main table, and so has less flexibility. He said that if Georgia has to take on the role of blocking an unacceptable mission, then it will. If a draft mandate that is acceptable to Georgia goes forward, he noted two possible scenarios: either it passes, or Russia vetoes it. If a draft mandate goes forward that is unacceptable to Georgia, however, Vashadze said that his country is prepared to block it. He noted that it will be important for Russia to understand that a no to an unacceptable mission does not imply an acceptance of further Russian provocations, but nevertheless, Georgia cannot compromise on the points above.

¶4. (C/NF) Vashadze expressed concern that the British and French seem to have moved away from some of these positions. He also expressed his disapproval of the circulation of non-papers on a possible mandate that have not been shown to the Georgians, noting in particular a recent German draft. Once again, he said he looked to the United States for support in the process.

TEFFT